

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIM

1. (Currently amended) A seal assembly, comprising:

a body ~~adapted to contain~~ that contains internal pressure, the body having an opening with an inwardly tapered peripheral sidewall;

a closure ~~adapted to close~~ that closes the opening, the closure having an attachment portion larger than the opening and an axially projecting stopper portion ~~adapted to fit~~ that fits closely within the opening, the stopper portion having an endless peripheral seal groove extending in spaced relation around the axis in which is positioned a peripheral seal ~~adapted to sealingly engage~~ that sealingly engages the tapered peripheral sidewall of the body in interference fit relation, thereby conforming to the tapered peripheral sidewall; and

a backing ring of pliable memory retaining material sheltered from internal pressure within the body by the peripheral seal and positioned between the peripheral seal groove and the attachment portion of the closure, the backing ring engaging the tapered peripheral sidewall of the body in interference fit relation and conforming to the tapered peripheral sidewall while being sufficiently stiff as to resist extrusion flow under pressure, such that when the peripheral seal deforms in response to an increase in internal pressure within the body and extrusion gaps begin to form between the attachment portion of the closure and the body, the peripheral seal is extruded against the backing ring, that portion of the backing ring engaging the tapered peripheral sidewall of the body plastically deforming by changing shape and applying sealing pressure at the extrusion gaps to prevent the peripheral seal from entering the extrusion gaps.

DO NOT ENTER, VP S/19/05, VP